

News



**Soldiers keep fit...**  
Aerobics comes to the desert. Soldiers sign-up for classes. See story on Page 4A.



**Multiple explosions...**  
IPs respond to explosions around the city. See story on Page 5A.

Post Update

**Phone # changes...**  
Winn Army Community Hospital telephone and fax prefixes have changed from 370 to 435.  
If you have difficulties getting through to a 435 number, call the hospital at 1-800-652-9221.  
For all appointments, call 435-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

**Commissary closure...**  
The Ft. Stewart Commissary will be closed May 22 for a complete change of shelving and a restocking of dry grocery items.  
The commissary will reopen 10 a.m., May 24.  
Signs will be posted to keep patrons informed.

**Book club...**  
The Ft. Stewart Library has a new service — an Online Book Club that delivers books electronically. Weekdays the library e-mails subscribers a portion of a book that takes about five minutes to read.  
You can subscribe by visiting Web site [www.stewartmwr.com/Entertainment/library.htm](http://www.stewartmwr.com/Entertainment/library.htm).

**Commissary events...**  
The commissary will have a floral/plant sale through Apr. 30. This will coincide with the DeCa Case Lot Sale Apr. 28 - 30.  
For more information, call Donald Snelssire at 767-2076.

**Field Day...**  
ACS is sponsoring a Field Day as part of their Child Abuse Prevention Month activities Apr.tomorrow, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the ACS parking lot.  
There will be activities and refreshments and everything is free. For more information, call 352-5343

**Job opportunities...**  
Human Resources is looking to fill positions for a Child & Youth Program Assistant, Recreation Aid, Desk Clerk, Cashier, Operations Assistant, Lifeguard, Custodial Worker, Laborer, Cook and Waiter/Waitress.  
For more information, call 767-5051.

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# Search of Madain uncovers large stockpiles of weapons - quick reaction force responds



*An Iraqi Army Soldier dismounts from a 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and secures his sector of fire on the highway north of Salman Pak in the early morning hours of Apr. 18. The IA and 3/7 Cav. forces served as a quick reaction force for the Iraqi security force's mission in Salman Pak that day.*

Story and Photos by  
**Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich**  
*2nd BCT Public Affairs*

**MADAIN, Iraq** — Following an early-morning cordon and search of a city south of Baghdad, Iraqi Security Forces supported by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, discovered weapons caches at two separate locations Monday.  
Prior to the search, Madain (also known as Salman Pak) had for months

been known as a terrorist staging ground for improvised explosive device attacks against Iraqi and U.S. forces.  
Items discovered and later destroyed by an explosive ordnance disposal team from Task Force Baghdad's 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, included more than 50 - 82mm mortar shells, rocket-propelled grenades and launchers, rockets, high-explosive artillery shells, and a pair of 250-pound Russian-made bombs.  
Additionally, dozens of rigged IED ini-

tiation devices and spools of wire were found in a nearby shack.  
A sports utility vehicle at the site contained three-155mm artillery shells wired and packed with additional explosives. Iraqi and U.S. forces provided security of the sites while EOD removed the threat.  
“The mission was very successful,” Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, commander, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, said. “The (Iraqi forces) were able to secure Salman Pak... and find a large weapons

cache where IED vehicle bombs were being manufactured.”  
In the town center, Iraqi Security Forces, numbering in the hundreds, celebrated after reclaiming a police station that had not been occupied by Iraqi Police personnel for months.  
“The U.S. forces had a very small part in the operation,” Johnson said. “(3-7 Cav.) served as a quick reaction force, if necessary. This was an all Iraqi-planned and executed mission.”

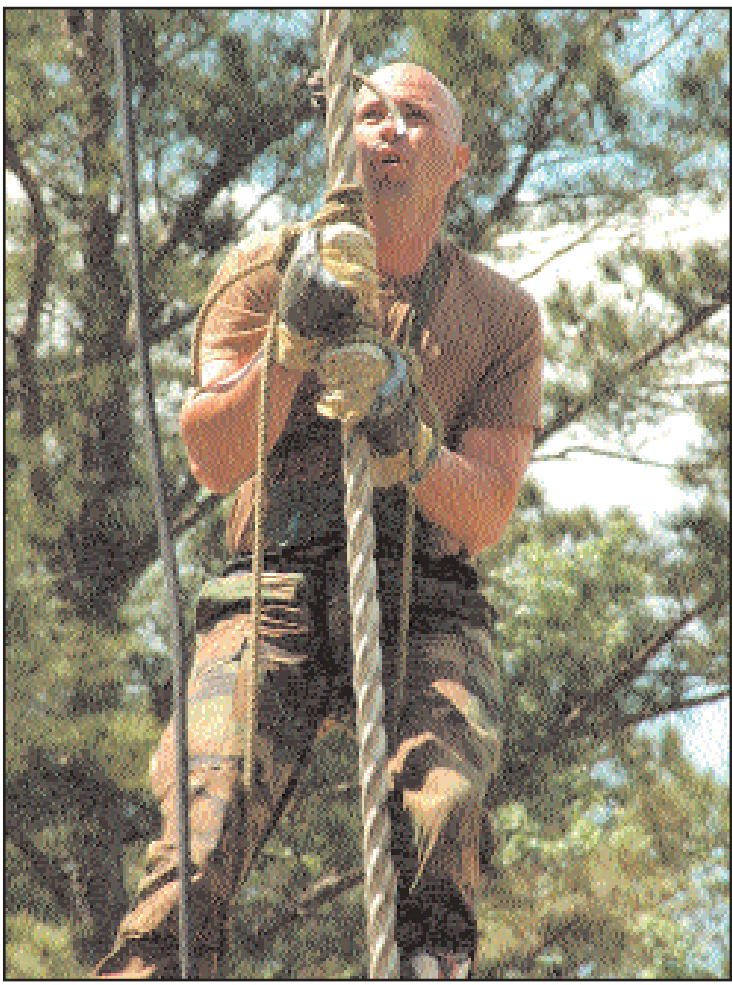
## 4th RTB wins Best Ranger

**Bridgett Siter**  
*Bayonet Staff*

With apologies to Dickens, it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.  
The cool weather last weekend was great for the competitors in the 22nd annual Best Ranger Competition, but it was nasty from a spectator perspective. It was one for the record books — colder and rainier than anyone can remember.  
As one of the original sponsors, Paul Voorhees, owner of Ranger Joe's, has attended the competition since its inception.  
“I remember it turned cool one year, but nothing like this. I've never seen it like this,” he said.  
Lightening and rain delayed the start time nearly an hour Friday morning. When the Rangers hit the Malvesti Obstacle Course, it was wet and slippery and teeming with mosquitoes.  
“The environment is always a factor,” said Col. K.K. Chinn, commander, Ranger Training Brigade, which hosts the event. “You can't control the elements in combat, and this (competition) is supposed to test them on the skills they'd use in combat.”  
This year's events were more combat-relevant than any in recent history. Besides the traditional obstacles, runs and PT tests (with a nontraditional twist — pull-ups were paced with a metronome,) day one included a room-

clearing exercise at McKenna MOUT, Fort Benning's urban training site.  
The teams were shown an aerial map and tasked to find and clear a room, under fire, 150 meters from the start point.  
“Since our Soldiers are fighting in cities in Afghanistan and Iraq, we want our Ranger leaders to fight in cities,” Brig. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, post commander, said while reflecting on competition highlights Sunday afternoon. “Five minutes would be a good time to complete this task. These men did it with an average time of one minute and thirteen seconds.”  
The competitors were full of energy when they arrived at the seventh event, a spot jump into a target area with a 35 meter diameter.  
The cooler temperatures kept them fresh, but high winds delayed the jump more than an hour.  
An hour of “down time” would be coveted later in the competition, but at this point, they were too psyched to sleep.  
“This is perfect,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Nelson, as he reclined on his rucksack, waiting. “We trained in cold weather, so this is exactly what we'd hoped for.”  
After the spot jump — only one team landed both jumpers on target — the Rangers were given their first “mystery challenge,” a Best Ranger staple.  
Like combat, the competition must be

**See Rangers** ————— **Page 17A**



Bridgett Siter  
*Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Nelson, 4th Ranger Training Battalion, climbs a 90-foot rope on the Prusik Tower as part Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning. Nelson and his teammate, Capt. Corbett McCallum, won the three day competition and the title of the 2005 Best Rangers.*

## 6/8 Cav trains Iraqi Army - ‘Defenders of Green Zone’



Army Photo  
*Members of the Iraqi Army's 1st and 3rd battalions and Headquarters Company, 5th Brigade, 6th Division stand in formation. Soldiers from 6th Bn., 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, will train the Iraqi Soldiers, known informally as the 'Defenders of the Green Zone,' to take over security of the International Zone.*

**2nd Lt. Seth Kirchhoff**  
*6/8 Cav.*

**BAGHDAD** — Members of the 6th Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division took the first steps toward the success of their new mission in Iraq - training the ‘Defenders of the Green Zone.’  
The unit's mission is to train the Iraqi Army's 1st and 3rd battalions, and Headquarters Company of the 5th Brigade, 6th Division. The U.S. Soldiers will give the Iraqi leaders the skills and leadership attributes required to train

competent and successful Soldiers.  
When all is said and done, 5th Bde., 6th Div. will be capable of protecting the Green Zone and its surrounding areas without assistance from the U.S. military.  
During the first day of training at Muthana Airfield, located just north of the International Zone, Lt. Col. Michael Harris, commander, 6th Bn., 8th Cav. Reg., led the way as his cavalymen were introduced to the Iraqi Soldiers they will work with for the next eight weeks. Although the link-up seemed awkward at first, due to the language barrier,

both sides appear eager to train and were ready to learn from one another.  
Most of the tasks the 1,000-plus Iraqi Soldiers will learn consist of basic Soldier skills such as rifle marksmanship, battle drills, managing traffic control points and first aid, said Maj. Chris Worrill, operations officer, 6/8 Cav.  
“Our goal here is not to turn the Iraqi Army into an American Army, but rather show the Iraqi leaders how we conduct business and let them make decisions on what tactics, techniques and procedures will work best for them,” Worrill said.



## VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS



# Marne Six Sends

Task Force Baghdad continues to aggressively take the fight to the enemy. Since the Transfer of Authority, we have provided a safer environment from which our partners in the Iraqi Security Forces have been able to learn and grow in strength and capability. The Iraqi Security Forces in Baghdad have provided critical forces to our team in operations to secure and safeguard the Ashoura and Arba'iniyyah Religious holidays, the Sadr peaceful protest and six seatings of the Transitional National Assembly. We must

remain focused on our MISSION. Your actions will keep the enemy off balance and reacting to us, while reassuring the population.

Our soldiers are our most valued asset. Continue to look out for each other. Ensure you wear your protective equipment on missions. Our protective equipment helps to mitigate risk, reduce injuries and has undoubtedly saved the lives of many of our buddies. Remind your battle buddy to use the

equipment... take care of our Soldiers.

Safe operation of our equipment is still important. Understand your equipment's capabilities and weak points. Together with your teammates ensure your equipment is properly maintained and safety considerations are understood. Teamwork can assist in preventing accidents. Together we can save lives and keep equipment in the fight.

We will continue our mission

of combating terrorism in Iraq while training Iraqi Security Forces. Our teams have shown the enemy that we can adapt to any tactical change and then move a step ahead by taking the fight to him. We will remain flexible, keep operations simple and build on our successes.

It is impressive to see the daily results of Soldiers who know their mission, know they are well-trained, well-led, and know they dominate the battle field.

**Mission...Soldiers...Teamwork**  
**"Rock of the Marne!"**

## ROCK OF THE MARNE

# Why I Serve — Soldier extends to stay in Iraq with new unit

**Sgt. Annette B. Andrews**  
*Special to Amer. Forces Press Service*

**ASAD, Iraq** — What's a police officer from Marietta, Ga., doing in the dusty desert regions of the Middle East? Extending her tour.

"I wanted to be in the thick of it," said Army Sgt. Beth A. Bedore, a native of Saginaw, Mich., where her family still resides. "I just know what we are doing over here is making a difference."

The all-wheeled vehicle mechanic originally was deployed with the 175th Maintenance Company to Kuwait and was attached 11 months later to the 561st Corps Support Group in northwestern Iraq.

"I'm not married. I don't have kids. My family is very supportive, and my nieces and nephews are proud of me," she said.

As a mechanic, she not only repaired vehicles, she assisted in up-arming vehicles. "There is personal pride in what I do, and if someone said the up-armor I put on their vehicle saved their life, that would make it all worth it," she said.

She originally volunteered for service in Iraq, but her unit was sent to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Late in her first deployment, her battalion commander and company commander helped her find a unit that was looking for volunteers to extend for an incoming unit.

"The 561st CSG was very welcoming, and that's made the transfer a lot easier," she said.

She is filling a required slot for the group. The person originally slotted for the maintenance group had a heart attack in Kuwait and was sent back. Working as a support operations maintenance non-commissioned officer, Bedore has gone from being under the vehicles to cutting steel to up-armor vehicles and now writes reports on the equipment she used to repair.

When a Soldier volunteers for extended service in a combat zone, it becomes a win-win situation. The military does not spend extra resources getting replacement troops or training those people. The gaining unit receives an experienced Soldier who can add to their existing resources and information about current conditions.

"Instead of going to school (for it), I'm getting on-the-job experience," she said. "In the long run, this saves the Army a lot of money. Besides, I'm here for the experience."

Soldiers profit too, and not only by receiving bonuses, something she never mentioned.

"I'm the only one in my family with military experience. It's helped me with self-discipline and exercise; that, in return, helps me with my job back home," she said. "I know there are others out there who are like me. I want to be here and do my job the best I can."

Like so many deployed Soldiers, Bedore has a bed among 42 bunk beds and limited space. Living in a tent provides no real personal space, with 18 inches to two feet between bunks. Personal



Sgt. Annette B. Andrews

**Army Sgt. Beth A. Bedore, with the 561st Corps Support Group in northwestern Iraq, extended her tour to stay with the unit that took her in so she could serve in Iraq.**

items spill over from beneath beds or from the tops of footlockers. It is nearly impossible to personalize their space, but these Soldiers do their best with small items they brought with them.

Every occupant must learn to get along or it becomes a very long year. Everyone lives together and works together, so they must pull together, the soldiers say.

The tent leaks on rainy days, and the elements do not discriminate — from the lieutenant colonel to the private, everyone gets drenched.

"Others who don't know you will cover your property and move things to protect you (in a downpour)," Bedore said about living with the 561st CSG. "It's a camaraderie you'll never have in the civilian world — ever."

Bedore's loyalty comes from being among individuals who barely knew her. On station for one week, she underwent minor surgery with a two-day hospital stay. The unit first sergeant and other soldiers went to the hospital with a get-well card signed by almost everyone.

"I felt they went above and beyond what was expected," she said. "I won't go home until they go home."

The 561st CSG, from Omaha, Neb., arrived in October and is in the process of building Asad into a general supply hub providing supplies to the surrounding areas of operations.

## Marne Voices

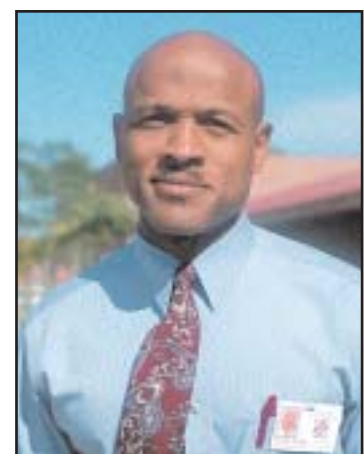
The **Frontline**

Readers respond to the question:

**What do you have planned for Mother's Day?**

**I'm going to wire some flowers to my mother, in North Carolina.**

Delano Parker  
Physicians assistant,  
Winn Army Community  
Hospital



**I'm going to give my mom flowers, like I do every year. But because she just moved here, I'm going to take her out to dinner and to see "The Interpreter." She likes Nicole Kidman's movies, and so do I.**

Earlena Cooper  
Military family member

**I would like to receive flowers, but my husband's deployed. Hopefully, I'll get a phone call. I'm sending my mother a lamp. It has sunflowers on it, and she really loves sunflowers.**

Tanya Farmer  
Military Family Member



**I'm going home to see my mom in Charleston, an then we are going to visit my wife's mother, in Columbus. We'll probably buy them both dinner, and some gifts.**

Cpt. Russell Stoney  
3/345th Training Support  
Bn., Army Reserves

**I'm going to be here, doing staff duty. I'll pamper myself. But when I get home to Miami, I'll pamper my mother- she's taking care of my daughter, Joanna, while I'm deployed here.**

Staff Sgt. Gwen Stewart  
3220th Garrison Support  
Unit, Army Reserves



**I had a portrait taken for my mother, of me and my son and my daughter. I just need to get a frame and send it. We're deploying soon, so, I don't think I am going to get to deliver it in person.**

Spc. Estrell Young  
648th Engineer Bn.  
National Guard

### Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SPC Manuel Lopez III**, HHC 3-7 IN, 4th BDE, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CPT Michael Hooper, Rear Detachment Commander 3-7 IN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-5867. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SPC Jacob M. Pfister**, A/3-7 IN, 4th BDE, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Michael Hooper, Rear Detachment Commander 3-7 IN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-5867. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Javier J. Garcia**, C Co., 1/64 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. David Sherer, HHB, HQ, 1/9 FA BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7235. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **PV1 Dustin A. Goforth**, 38th Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Christopher M. Handy, 179th Military Police Detachment, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 352-5038. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SPC Alenia Ramirez-Gonzalez**, HHC 1-3 BTB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CW2 Coleman, HHT 5-7 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-2179. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **PFC Kevin Scott Wessel**, A/3-7 IN, 4th BDE, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Rear Detachment Commander 3-7 IN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-5867. (1)

## The Frontline

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# Soldiers, Iraq Army unit forge tight relationship

Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

**CAMP RUSTIMIYAH, Iraq** — Leaders from Task Force Baghdad's 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, and 1st Battalion, Iraqi Intervention Forces, met for the first time Apr. 17 at Camp Rustimiyah.

About 25 officers and senior noncommissioned officers from each unit met for an introductory lunch at the camp's dining facility, followed by briefings from the respective battalions at the 1st Bn., 64th Armor Reg. classroom, and a visit to the 1st Bn., IIF, Soldiers' quarters.

Lt. Col. Ali Naem Jabar, commander, 1st Bn., IIF, looks forward to the new relationship.

"We've worked with many American units," he said, referring to his battalion's joint missions in the Fallujah and Sadr City offensives. "We've learned a lot from them, and we know they, like us, are interested in building the new Iraq."

Jabar noted that during the inception of 1st Bn., IIF, in Aug. 2003, his Soldiers were apprehensive and scared.

"They're no longer scared. Every mission we go on, they're motivated." Jabar said, "We have 40 new recruits who aren't joining for the money; they're joining because they're patriots."

A senior NCO in 1st Bn. is one of those patriots.

"I have received messages from terrorists telling me to leave the Army," the sergeant said. "In spite of that, I won't leave. My family supports me in this because they know I am one of thousands of Iraqis helping to change this country."

The commander of 1st Battalion's counterparts is well aware of his battalion's role in making that happen.

"We're putting Iraq's future in the hands of Iraqis," said Lt. Col. Kevin Farrell, commander, 1/64. "Our overall mission is to assist and support the Iraqi forces in maintaining the security and stability of the country."

The companies from the respective battal-



Army Photo

**Lt. Col. Kevein Farrell (right), 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, commander, is joined by 1st Battalion, Iraqi Intervention Force, commander Lt. Col. Ali Naem Jabar during his visit to Camp Rustimiyah. The two leaders discussed issues which will effect their units during missions in Southeast Baghdad.**

ions have trained and patrolled together since March. The battalion-level staffs, however, are just now embarking on the joint mission; one that will be a great partnership.

"We have experience, manpower and fire-

power," Farrell said. "They have combat experience, and knowledge of the culture and language," he said.

"Together, the total is greater than the sum of its parts," he said.

## Iraqi Police respond to bomb attack on crowded street

Task Force Baghdad  
Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Police quickly responded when an improvised explosive device was detonated in the Nissan neighborhood of eastern Baghdad wounding as many as 10 Iraqi citizens in a crowd-

ed area frequented by commuters.

Initial reports from the scene indicate the detonation was triggered by a terrorist who was close to the crowded target area.

After the blast, Iraqi Police and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers secured the scene and evacuated the casualties to a local hospital.

A local civilian, disgusted with the attack on his friends and neighbors, provided information to Iraqi Security Forces that other IEDs might be in the area.

After sweeping the area to protect the local population, ISF discovered a possible secondary IED.

"This incident, once again, shows that the ter-

rorists care nothing about the Iraqi people. Their cowardly and criminal activity — designed to negatively impact the democratic process in Iraq — does nothing but hurt and kill numerous innocent bystanders," said Lt. Col. Kevin Farrell, commander, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, Task Force Baghdad.



# Let’s get physical — Avn. Soldier teaches Camp Taji aerobic class part time

Story and Photos by  
**Spc. Derek Del Rosario**  
*Aviation Brigade Public Affairs*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** — Sweat rolls down the brows of dozens of Soldiers. Their hearts are racing as they breathe harder with every passing moment.

Some Soldiers feel the pain of their actions, but one thing is true for all of these soldiers —they all made the choice to be here.

Are these Soldiers road-marching through the desert? Jumping out of planes? Clearing a building in Baghdad? Actually, they are all part of a class that features one thing — aerobics.

One of the numerous opportunities available to Soldiers here at Camp Taji is an aerobics class, which is conducted twice-a-day, three-days a week. These classes are taught by Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth S. Brown, Property Book Office NCOIC for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade.

Brown’s aerobic instruction began five years ago at Fort Stewart, Ga., where she worked as the post-partum pregnancy physical training instructor for the 3rd Infantry Division.

When her deployment brought her to Taji, she volunteered to teach aerobics to servicemembers.

She was surprised by the turnout she received on her first day of instruction.

“When I went to my first class, I was amazed to see how many people showed up, around 30,” said Brown. “The class continues to grow; now we get up to 60 (Soldiers).”

Classes are made up of a good mix of males and females. Brown likes to see males in her classes because it breaks the stigma that aerobics is strictly for women. She often gets positive feedback from her male participants.

“I come three days a week,” said Staff Sgt. Joker Botin, Alpha Co. 603rd Aviation Support Battalion. “It is a good workout and the instruction is outstanding.”

The aerobics class is an hour long and contains a cardio workout in which Brown tries to incorporate something for everyone.

“Aerobic routines come natural to me,” Brown said.

“I try to use moves that will work out different parts of the body, and I like to try new moves that people will enjoy. I will look in the crowd and gauge how they like the routine by the looks on their faces, and I adjust my routine accordingly.”

Brown believes music is important when doing aerobics. She will change the music to fit a certain part of the routine.

“I have to feel the music in order to come up with the moves,” she said. “I need upbeat and uplifting music. I like to try out different styles. For the future, I plan to incorporate some Latin music into my routine.”

Despite having five years of experience, Brown still gets butterflies when teaching her classes.

“No matter how long I’ve been doing this, I still get nervous before each class,” Brown said. “But once the class starts and I see people enjoying it, my nervousness diminishes.”

People are indeed enjoying her class as seen by the growing number of participants.

“My friend told me about this class and it’s pretty intense,” said 2nd Lt. Kristi Hyatt, 3/3 Air Reconnaissance Battalion, who was participating in the class for the first time. “She (Brown) makes it fun and she is very motivated.”

Being an aerobics instructor keeps Brown busy. Along with instructing morning and evening classes three times a week and being in charge of the brigade’s property book office, she also is taking two classes in order to get her Bachelor of Science in criminal justice.

“I have to manage my time and get into a routine,” she said. “I enjoy doing both classes, so it’s hard to give one up. Sometimes before a class I am drained, but once the music starts and I see how energetic people are, it wakes me up.”

Despite her full schedule, Brown finds gratification in knowing she is giving something back to the Soldiers by helping them get fit.

“Today someone came up to me and told me how much they enjoyed the class and how I helped him get back into shape,” Brown said. “That’s the best part for me, knowing I can be of help to someone else. Hearing the positive feedback and helping people makes me know I’m doing something.”



Spc. Marcus Archibald feels the strain during the abs workout portion of the aerobics class when Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth S. Brown gives him personal instruction.

# Samarra presents new patrol environ for 69th

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.  
 1st BCT Public Affairs

Members of 3rd battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry conducted Operation Forsyth Park outside the city of Samarra beginning Apr. 17.

“We’re actually looking for foreign fighters,” said Maj. Pat Walsh, 3/69 Armor operations officer. The Soldiers are also trying to determine the sphere of influence any foreign fighters may have had over the people who live in these rural areas, Walsh said.

This operation is meant to gather information more than it is meant to make arrests or engage any enemy.

“Our success isn’t determined by the amount of individuals we have detained,” Walsh said. “We have been able to get a positive influence not only for Coalition Forces, but for the Iraqi Security Forces as well.”

The people in these areas haven’t really interacted with Coalition Soldiers since Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, but with the help of the ISF, much more progress is being made.

“This is really the first contact these peo-

ple have had with Soldiers since the first OIF,” Walsh said. “Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces are driving together. They are speaking their language and asking questions about not only foreign fighters, but how they can help or how we can help them.”

This type of mission is a big change from what the Soldiers are used to doing. These guys have been in the city fighting, now they are out in the desert, Walsh said.

“Our guys are used to doing patrols in Samarra, which is a pretty big city,” said Capt. Ryan Wylie, B Company, 3/69 Armor commander.

“The guys are really getting a good feel for the diversity around the city. They get experience from operating in the urban areas, and from this recent operation we have been working primarily in a rural area,” he said.

This not only benefits the Soldiers with a new kind of environment, but deters the terrorists from operating in an area they once thought was safe for them, Walsh said.

“We wanted to switch up and do something completely different. We wanted to let any terrorists know we will deny the enemy sanctuary.”



69th Armor makes its presence felt as it patrols the streets of Samarra.



The desert looks empty but the Soldiers of the 69th Armor understand the danger that could lie anywhere along the flat terrain they patrol.

# New equipment brings better health care to people of Tasherie

4th BCT Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment teamed up with the doctors of the Tasherie Medical Clinic to make their final delivery of medical supplies.

More than \$120,000 worth of equipment was donated over the course of three visits.

The Tasherie neighborhood advisory council initially requested the equipment so the clinic could better support the residents of the 215 Apartment Complex. The unit made two other deliveries in February and March, consisting of X-ray equipment, stethoscopes, spectrophotometers, water baths, scales, and other important medical items. With the receipt of the new equipment, the clinic will be able to provide more services to the patients.



A picture is worth a thousand words. Iraqi doctors are grateful for the new medical equipment supplied by the Americans. The equipment will help save many Iraqi lives.

# FBI sets the record straight at Hunter

Frontline Staff

William Kirkconnell, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Savannah office announces the following:

The FBI in cooperation with Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Military Police and Army Criminal Investigator's have obtained a confession from a Hunter Army Airfield woman to fabricating her own rape and robbery.

FBI, Military Police and CID have jointly investigated a series of such incidents that were reported at Hunter Army Airfield during the past several weeks and have found nothing to uphold these allegations.

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Provost Marshal, Major Thomas Byrd has offered

residents of Hunter Army Airfield the following statement:

"It is unfortunate that a few individuals have jeopardized the Readiness of our forward deployed 3d Infantry Division and other unit's Soldiers whose families reside on our installations. All allegations of crime or inappropriate actions reported to our police agencies will be fully investigated with the help of all local, state and federal agencies such as the FBI and people found to be involved will be considered for prosecution. Even if the incidents are not found to be crimes the Installation Commander has reserved the right to take administrative actions against wrong doers such as barring them from the installation, or having their right to be housed on the installation revoked."



# Iraqi Army, Police respond to multiple explosions

TFB Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi security forces and multi-national forces responded to multiple improvised explosive device attacks in various districts around the city Apr. 20.

In one attack, around 10 a.m., one infant was killed, and seven local nationals and two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were wounded after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in western Baghdad.

Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army Soldiers secured the scene and treated the wounded civilians. The U.S. Soldiers were evacuated to a nearby U.S. treatment facility.

A secondary IED was found near the site and a U.S. explosive ordnance disposal team was notified.

Another VBIED detonated when a terrorist drove the vehicle into the Al Belat police station near Al Dora around 11:15 a.m. The explosion

was followed by small-arms fire. Iraqi Police reported the attack wounded four Iraqis.

Iraqi Army Soldiers cordoned off the area in Dora and fire trucks responded to the explosion at the police station and prevented additional damage.

One local national was detained at the site for further questioning.

In both cases, Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army took control of the situation in an expeditious manner.

“What you are seeing is a continued attack on the Iraqi Security Forces,” Col. Ed Cardon, commander, 4th BCT, said. “The suicide bomber today was against a police station. But what’s amazing to me is that despite all these attacks, we still have no troubles recruiting policemen and Soldiers to serve in the ISF.”

In another IED attack, a Task Force Baghdad convoy was wounding two Soldiers who were evacuated to a medical treatment facility.



Maj. Alayne Conway

*The VBIED targeted the Al Belat police station in the Dora neighborhood. Iraqi Police reported that four Iraqi’s were injured during the explosion.*

## Task Force Baghdad reports...

### 13 Terrorists Detained

**BAGHDAD** — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers detained 13 suspected terrorists, including a woman allegedly tied to al-Qaeda terrorist leader Abu Musab-al-Zarqawi.

An Iraqi citizen saved the lives of Soldiers and civilians in west Baghdad by pointing out an improvised explosive device to a Task Force Baghdad unit before terrorists could detonate the bomb. An explosives team called to the site determined that the device was an anti-tank round and safely disposed of it.

Later in the day, local Iraqi citizens in the Salman Pak area turned a weapons cache over to Iraqi Police officers. The Iraqis turned in 30 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 50 mortar rounds, 100 fuses, 100 feet of detonation cord and TNT to the Iraqi Police.

“A lot more people want to rebuild Iraq than want to tear it apart,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. “The Iraqi people are fed up and are turning against terrorists and terrorist acts more and more.”

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, working with the Iraqi Police near Salman Pak found a weapons cache with 200 mortar rounds. The Iraqi Police secured the area to allow explosives experts to look for more weapons that may be buried at the site.

In south Baghdad, U.S. Soldiers found another weapons cache consisting of 12 artillery rounds, 20 mortar rounds and 1,000 feet of wire. An explosive ordnance team safely destroyed the munitions.

**Task Force Baghdad raids net three terrorist targets**

**BAGHDAD** — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers detained three suspects specifically targeted for conducting terrorist activities during three early-morning raids in west Baghdad.

Shortly after midnight, the Soldiers captured a former Fedayeen leader now working with numerous anti-Iraqi forces. The suspect was taken into custody for questioning.

“This was a very professionally-done raid,” said Maj. Jeff O’Neal, operations officer, Task Force Baghdad. “We acted off of some pretty intense intelligence and we were in and out pretty quickly.”

Thirty minutes later, members of another Task Force Baghdad unit seized a member of a terrorist cell with ties to a Fallujah terror organization.

At about 1:15 a.m., Soldiers from yet another unit apprehended

a former city council member who was dismissed after stealing \$5,000 in U.S. currency. The man is thought to have planned terrorist attacks during the elections.

In southeast Baghdad, Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment safely destroyed a large weapons cache they discovered. The cache consisted of 1,200 14.5-millimeter mortar rounds, 1,900 pounds of explosives and 2,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. The Soldiers also disposed of an additional 243 mortar rounds, 2,000 feet of detonation cord and a roadside bomb.

**Iraqi Army, U.S. forces seize weapons, terrorists**

**BAGHDAD** — In just over one hour, Iraqi Army Soldiers and Task Force Baghdad netted five weapons caches and five terrorists in five separate raids in the city.

One of the terrorists taken into custody is believed to be a key member in a local terror cell.

Shortly after 3:30 p.m. Apr. 20, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers confiscated mortar rounds and rockets hidden at a school in southeast Baghdad.



# Iraqi tip leads Soldiers to Salman Pak weapons

Task Force Baghdad PAO

**BAGHDAD** — Multiple units from the Iraqi Security Forces supported by 2nd Brigade Combat Team’s 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, unearthed a large weapons cache in Salman Pak.

The buried cache in southeastern Baghdad consisted of 503 mortar rounds, wrapped in plastic, ranging in diameter from 60mm to 120mm.

Soldiers from 3/7 Cav. and 4th Iraqi Intervention Force discovered the cache based on tips from local residents.

“This cache will significantly disrupt enemy activity in our area of operations,” Maj. Dan Cormier, 2nd BCT operations officer, said. “The enemy

appears to be on the run — we’ve neutralized anti-Iraqi forces’ capabilities for using Salman Pak as a staging area.”

“The scope of our operation demonstrates the significant and increasing capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces,” he said.

Soldiers from 2nd BCT Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and engineers from E Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry conducted a controlled detonation of the cache.

Elsewhere, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers foiled three terrorist attacks by finding improvised explosive devices before terrorists could use them against Iraqi civilians and Multinational Forces.

The first IED was spotted on the side of a road in

southwest Baghdad.

The unit saw two suspects in the area running away.

The Soldiers caught one of the suspects and took him into custody for questioning.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers found another IED in east Baghdad.

The bomb consisted of nine 120-millimeter mortar rounds and an anti-tank mine.

An explosives team safely disposed of the bomb.

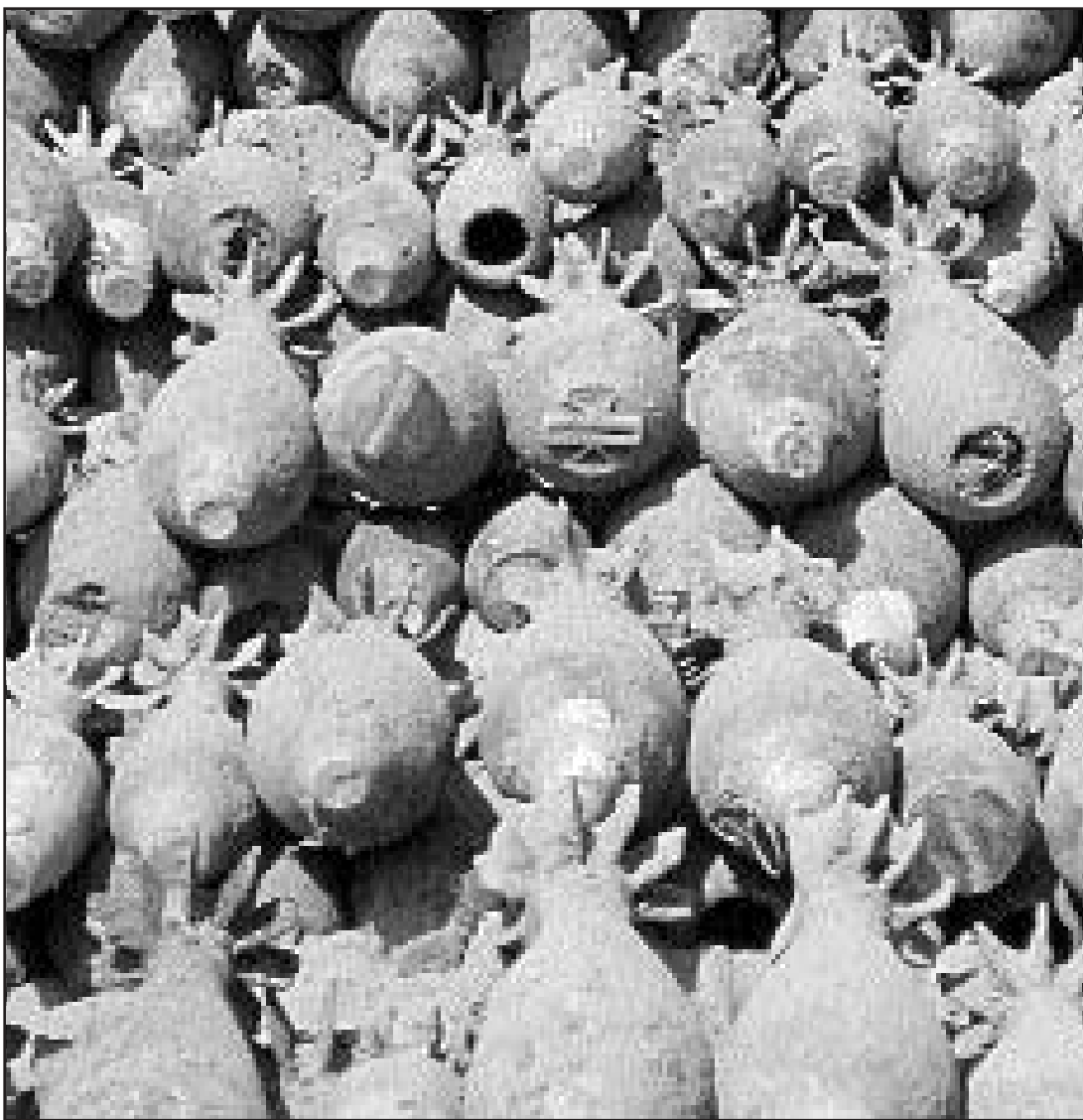
Just over an hour later, another Task Force Baghdad unit found a third IED on a major supply route in northwest Baghdad.

The Soldiers secured the area and an explosive ordnance team was able to safely detonated the explosive round.



Army Photo

**Task Force Baghdad Soldiers dig up a cache of mortar rounds in Salman Pak. More than 500 rounds were found and destroyed by Iraqi and U.S. forces.**



U.S. Army photo

**A stack of mortar rounds found in Salman Pak awaits destruction at the hands of Task Force Baghdad Soldiers. Iraqi and U.S. forces oversaw the destruction of the cache.**

## Car bomb explodes at police checkpoint, 3 dead

**Task Force Baghdad**  
*Pubic Affairs*

**BAGHDAD** — Two Ministry of Interior employees and one Iraqi Police officer were killed when a terrorist drove a car loaded with explosives into an police checkpoint Apr. 20.

One IP and two Iraqi citizens were also wounded in the attack in north-central Baghdad.

A Task Force Baghdad unit on patrol in the area helped IPs secure the area immediately after the detonation of what officials estimate was 250 pounds of explosives.

The attack was carried out by a suicide

driver, a trigger man and a camera team. Moments before the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device drove up to the checkpoint, the trigger man got out of the car in order to remotely detonate the VBIED. IPs detained him for questioning before he could flee the scene.

“Once again anti-Iraqi Forces are trying to disrupt the government by killing Iraqi Police officers who are just trying to maintain law and order,” said Lt. Col. Michael Infanti, deputy commander, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. “The Iraqi people are fed up and are turning against the insurgency more and more every day.”

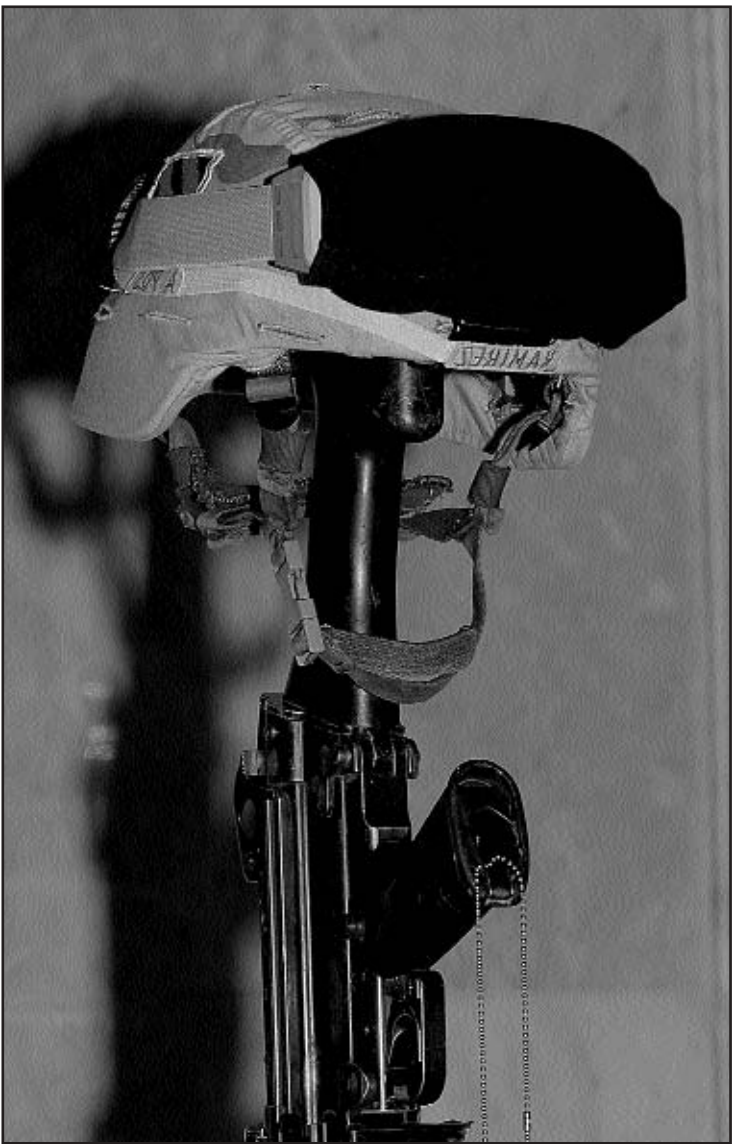


# Soldiers saddened over loss of 1st BCT comrade

Story and Photos by  
**Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
*1st BCT Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD** — A Soldier's life was stolen from the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Dagger when an insurgent fired a rocket at the FOB Apr. 15.

Cpl. Aleina Ramirez, a military police woman and a member of 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Troops Battalion personal security detachment, was killed during the attack.



*Traditionally, items from a Soldier's personal gear are displayed to remind other Soldiers of the sacrifice some pay in the defense of freedom.*

This was the first time insurgents hit FOB Dagger since the arrival of 1st BCT, Staff Sgt. Marquis Mills-Cooper, intelligence analyst, 1/3 BTB, said.

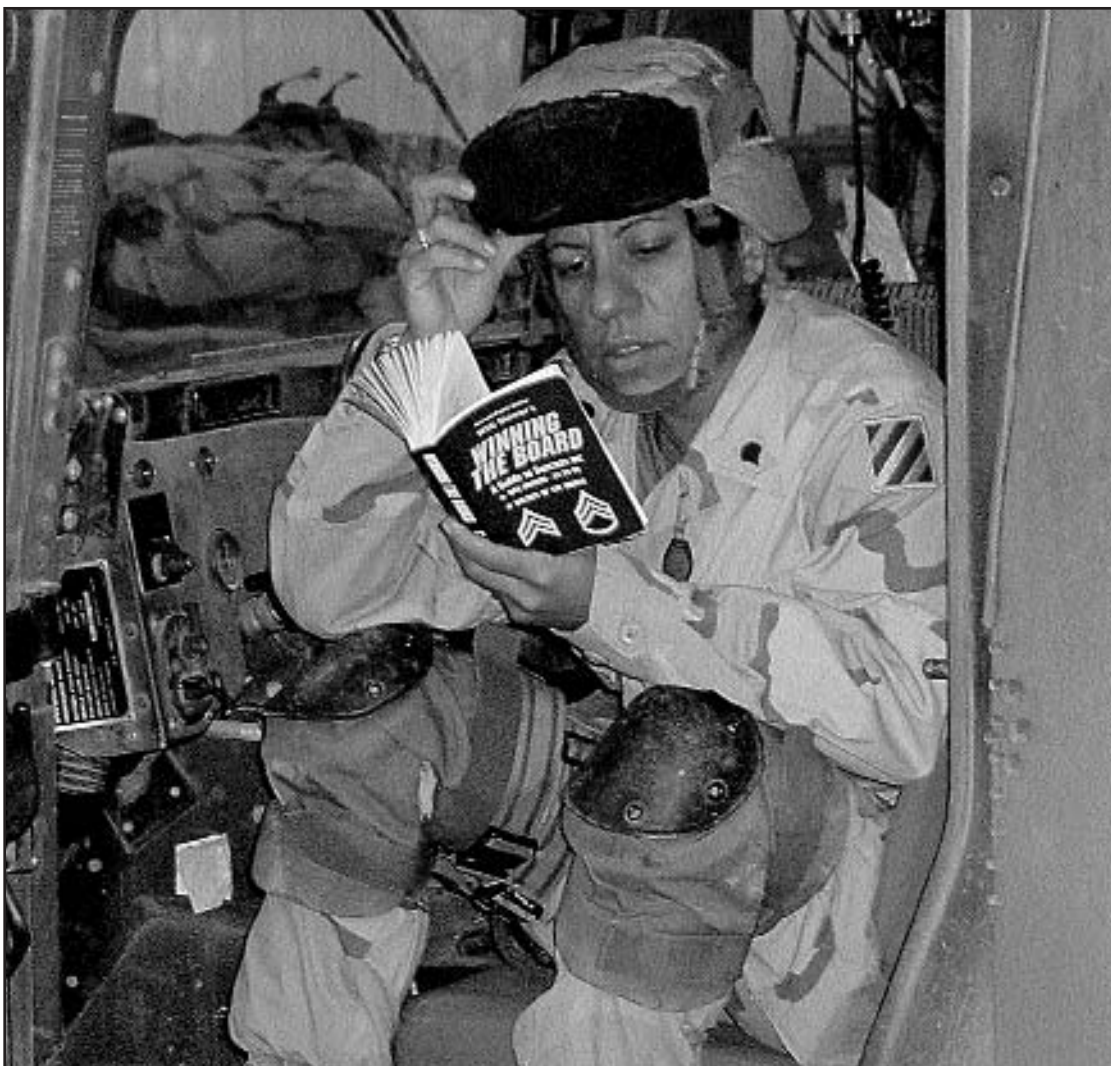
Soldiers who knew and worked directly with Ramirez have very fond memories of her personality and character.

"I met (Ramirez) in Kuwait, and we hit it off really fast because we had a lot in common," Pvt. Megan Zeigler, information systems operator analyst, 1/3 BTB, said. "When I think of (Ramirez), I always want to think of loyalty right away. She was a very loyal and trustworthy person. When you were around her, anything that was wrong, she would uplift you. She was always happy. We were the only two female SAW gunners on this FOB. She faced danger every day. She never complained. She would go out and sit on top of the vehicle and be vulnerable. She would have done anything for anybody. She was the strongest Soldier I think I had ever met. She makes me want to be strong and brave."

Ramirez inspired the Soldiers around her by being the best she could be.

"The thing I admired about her most was the fact that she could never complain about anything she had to get done," Pfc. Nia Rock, supply specialist, 1/3 BTB, said. "As a soldier, if she was told something on short notice, if she had been up all night just hitting the bed, no matter when it was, she was always prepared. She could never be late even if she wanted to, that was not an option. The littlest things made her happy, even eating something of her choice that day would make her smile. When I asked her about being on the PSD team and wanted to know if she wanted to stay on it, her reply was 'if my team stays, I want to stay.'"

Soldiers who worked with



*Seen shortly before her death, Raimerez studied hard for her upcoming sergeant's board. Those familiar with her work were confident that she would be selected for promotion. Her attention to detail drew praise from her commander and fellow Soldiers.*

Ramirez only briefly were still able to see something special about her.

"I didn't know her from a hole in the wall when I first got here," said Spc. Keith Brescher, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT. "She worked with me and always brought me chow when I couldn't leave. She never complained about doing it. She was a very giving person."

As a member of the PSD team, she is remembered by 1/3 BTB commander Lt. Col. Douglas Victor as an individual who had great potential and accomplished much during her short time in Iraq.

"As an integral part of the Desert Cat Battalion's PSD, Ramirez skillfully drove for crew number three," Victor said. "In just a short time, she already executed (more than) 125 patrols on the dangerous roads of Iraq."

Ramirez was studying for the sergeant promotion. Her leaders were confident in her ability to assume the responsibilities inherent in that role.

"Ramirez was a quiet professional and fully capable to be a sergeant," Victor said.

Victor believes that despite the loss of Ramirez, his unit has pulled together, and remembers what kind of Soldier she was.

"While our unit is terribly saddened by the ultimate sacrifice of Cpl. Ramirez, the Desert Cats are a better unit because of her," Victor said.

A memorial ceremony was held for Ramirez Apr. 21, and featured a display of her boots, assigned weapon, identification tags and helmet. Chaplain (Capt.) Nathan Klein delivered the memorial meditation. Cpl. Ramirez' company and battalion commanders also made remarks.

The ceremony was conducted by Col. Mark McKnight, commander, 1st BCT, and was also attended by Task Force Liberty Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto.

Ramirez is survived by her father Wilfredo Ramirez, her mother Aleina Ramirez, and her brother Joel Ramirez.



# Aviation bde. gets wired

**Spc. Brian P. Henretta**  
*Aviation Bde. Public Affairs*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** — In Napoleon Bonaparte’s day, an army marched on its stomach; these days,

Soldiers march on the strength of wires, cables and satellites which feed the information flow vital to combat operations.

Like other communication operations in other Task Force Baghdad brigades, the S-6 with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Helicopter) has proved to be critical for operations in Iraq.

The Soldiers who work in the S-6 have been working at a hectic pace since arriving at Camp Taji.

Part of the reason for the high operating tempo is because they didn’t have the luxury of falling in on much pre-existing equipment, or even buildings to house their equipment.

In both their headquarters

building and tactical operations center, the Soldiers had to install everything to get the various systems operating.

“We had to completely start from scratch,” said Sgt. Jeffery L. Wood, a communications team chief with HHC, 3/3 AHB.

“Our headquarters building has been under renovations and didn’t have any internet wiring so we have to run cables and knock holes in the sheetrock walls to install it.”

The members of the S-6 team are also installing Armed Forces Network-ready cable outlets in each of the rooms in their headquarters building, as well as building an education center.

The education center will be for Soldiers in the battalion to visit during their off time and take electronic Army correspondence courses, said Wood.

While 3/3 AHB’s headquarters has required wiring overhauls, their TOC needed an even bigger facelift to become operational.

“We had to take out entire walls,” Spc. Rambo Rapu, a communications specialist with HHC, 3/3 AHB, said.

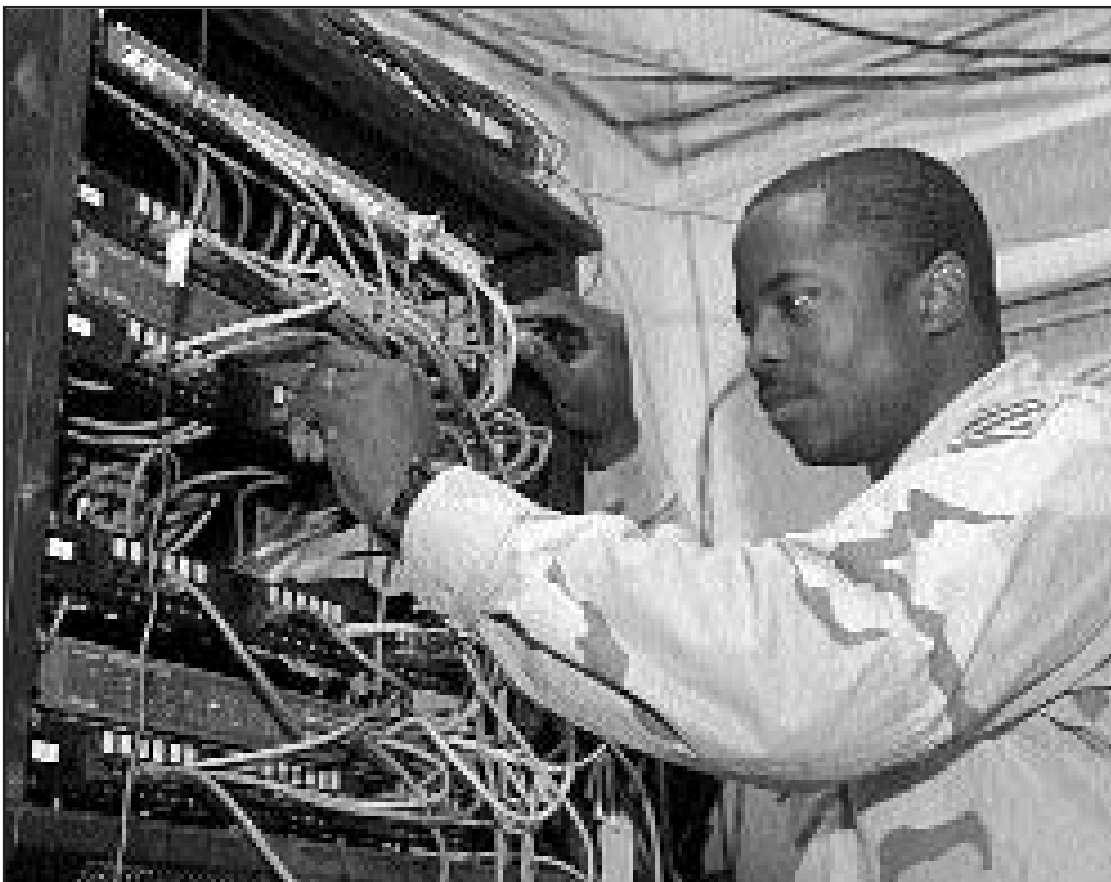
“The room was too small to hold everyone required to perform tactical operations and aircraft control, so we made it bigger and installed all the computer, telephone and radio equipment.”

After spending the first few months of the deployment running wires and setting up equipment, Soldiers from the S-6 are far from done with their important mission.

Their current phase of operations, maintaining and protecting equipment, may be even more important, said Rapu.

“Now we work on stopping new viruses from entering the network and troubleshooting computer problems,” said Rapu.

The various tasks performed by the Soldiers of the S-6 have critical importance to the battalion’s mission, and their efforts have not gone without notice.



Army Photo

**Technicians face daunting tasks in a race against time. Installing necessary links to connect units is only half the battle. They must also protect circuits from virus attacks.**

“They’ve been working hard from Kuwait until now. They put all of this equipment together themselves and have accepted great responsi-

bility and long work hours to get our communications working,” Capt. Carlos E. Davis, 3/3 AHB signal officer, said.

“Without their work, and the continuing efforts of the guys working in the TOC, all communication is in the dark.”

# Car bomb suspect nabbed when he goes to local hospital

*TFB Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD** — Doctors treating victims of a car bombing helped capture one of the men suspected of carrying out the attack.

The man checked in for aid at Baghdad’s Yarmouk Hospital shortly after two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices were detonated in the Karradah dis-

trict, killing 18 Iraqis and wounding at least 41 others.

A third vehicle in the area, packed with explosives, failed to detonate.

As doctors at the hospital were treating the wounded, they noticed one man who stood out among the crowd because of his foreign accent.

The man did not want to be treated and tried to leave, causing the doctors to become more suspicious.

An Iraqi police officer noticed the man had glass particles in his ears and nose, indicating that the man could have been in a vehicle during the explosion.

The man possessed fake identification and later tested positive for morphine.

Doctors alerted the IPs and the man was taken into custody at the Al-Mesbah police station in Baghdad and later turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.

Two days later, the man admitted to taking part in the VBIED attack.

He said he was the driver of the third car which failed to detonate.

The man is currently in MOI custody.

Officials believe the man came to Iraq through Syria and was working for the Al-Qaeda terrorist network.



# Aviation brigade keeps the pumps going with millionth gallon of fuel

**Spc. Brian P. Henretta**  
*Aviation Bde. Public Affairs*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** — The forward arming refueling point provides the fuel which is the lifeblood that keeps the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Aviation Brigade helicopters in the air patrolling around Baghdad.

The Soldiers of 3/5 Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion hit a milestone by pumping their millionth gallon of fuel since taking over refueling operations — quicker than anyone expected.

While the Soldiers saw it as just another part of the day's work, leadership was extremely proud.

"We have been working at a very high pace, but people didn't think we would have pumped this much so

quickly," said 2nd Lt. Esperanza George, platoon leader, 3/5, HSC, 603rd ASB. "My troops are something special. I thank my noncommissioned officers for that. Without them, I don't think we could achieve what we did. They are very motivating and make sure the job gets done safely."

There haven't been any accidents at the FARP since the 603rd ASB took over duties.

This can be attributed to daily safety briefings and equipment checks, said Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Martinez, 3/5 Platoon sergeant, HSC, 603rd ASB.

When a helicopter lands at the FARP, a refueling team springs into action.

Each Soldier performs his role like clockwork, allowing for a quick turnaround of aircraft.

They supply fuel for all coalition

helicopters in the Baghdad area, including Navy, Marine and British aircraft.

George's hard-working Soldiers are proud of all they have done in a very short amount of time.

"The past few months have been a total team effort on our part. We have the fuelers, truck drivers, and armament specialists out there keeping extremely busy to pump that much fuel so quickly," said Patrick Wiley, aviation refueler, HSC, 603rd ASB.

With one million gallons pumped in such a short amount of time, how much fuel can this unit expect to pump throughout OIF III?

"Last time I was here, we pumped 3.8 million in 11 months," said Martinez. "If we keep up the pace we're at now, we could hit five million this time."



Spc. Brian Henretta

**Pvt. Junius Richard, refueler, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, prepares to fuel a Blackhawk.**

# Multi-national forces capture 11 terrorists, find weapons

*TFB Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Police officers, acting on a tip from local nationals, raided a partially constructed building where tipsters said a gang was seen concealing weapons.

The Iraqi Police searched the building and found 600 machine gun rounds, drawings of snipers and road diagrams.

"All residents who have information about terrorist activity in their neighborhoods are encouraged to help Iraqi Security Forces rid

the streets of crime by calling or e-mailing the TIPS hotline," Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson, said.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers captured six terrorists.

They were believed to have placed improvised explosives devices on roads in south Baghdad during early morning raids.

Terrorists fired two mortar rounds at another patrol operating in south Baghdad at around 8:00 p.m.

Neither round exploded.

The Soldiers searched the area for the attackers and detained two individuals with mortar sights in their possession.

Both suspects were taken to a nearby base for questioning.

In north Baghdad, a U.S. patrol leaving a military base saw three Iraqi men observing the camp.

When the men saw the patrol exiting the gate they jumped in a black BMW and drove away.

The unit pursued the car, stopped it and

searched it.

The Soldiers found three AK-47 rifles, a pistol and a significant amount of ammunition, including armor piercing rounds.

The three suspects were taken to an internment facility for questioning.

"Terrorists attack from mosques, target innocent civilians, and store illegal weapons caches, for use against the legitimately-elected Iraqi government," said Kent.

"Today's arrests make the streets and neighborhoods of Baghdad safer," he said.

# Iraqi Army Soldiers detain two long sought terrorists

*2nd BCT Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the Iraqi Army, supported by C Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, visited the home of a suspected terrorist and arrested two terrorists.

Both terrorists are suspected of plotting and carrying out numerous murders of Iraqi civilians employed on coalition forward operating

bases.

One notorious terrorist leader who hides behind the mask of being an ice cream truck driver was captured and is now detained.

His neighbor, another alleged terrorist, has actively supported the killing of innocent Iraqi civilians. An employee at a candy factory near Sadr City, he is also now detained.

"The capture of these men helps secure the brigade's area, and makes it safer for the Iraqi

people," said one of the U.S. Armor officers who declined to be identified. "My Soldiers are great at this — we're well trained and we rehearsed extensively for this particular mission. I've got total confidence in them."

The Armor unit has extensive experience working with the Iraqi Army on numerous raids, traffic control points and surveillance missions, said a second officer.

"It's great working with the Iraqi Army —

they're always with us on these missions," noted the 1st Bn., 64th Armor Reg. officer who also declined to be identified. "They know people in the area, and most importantly, they see things we don't."

"They're very good at finding fake walls and hidden caches because they're much more familiar with local architecture," he said.

Both accused terrorists are now detained in an unspecified location.



# First Iraqi Soliders graduate from logistics course

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Kevin Bromley**  
*1st Armor Div. Public Affairs*

**TAJI, Iraq** — Iraqi Soldiers stood on the hot pavement of the parade ground with the Iraqi Flag waving proudly above their heads. These Soldiers lined up in neat rows were the first class to graduate from the Iraqi Army Support Services Institute in Taji.

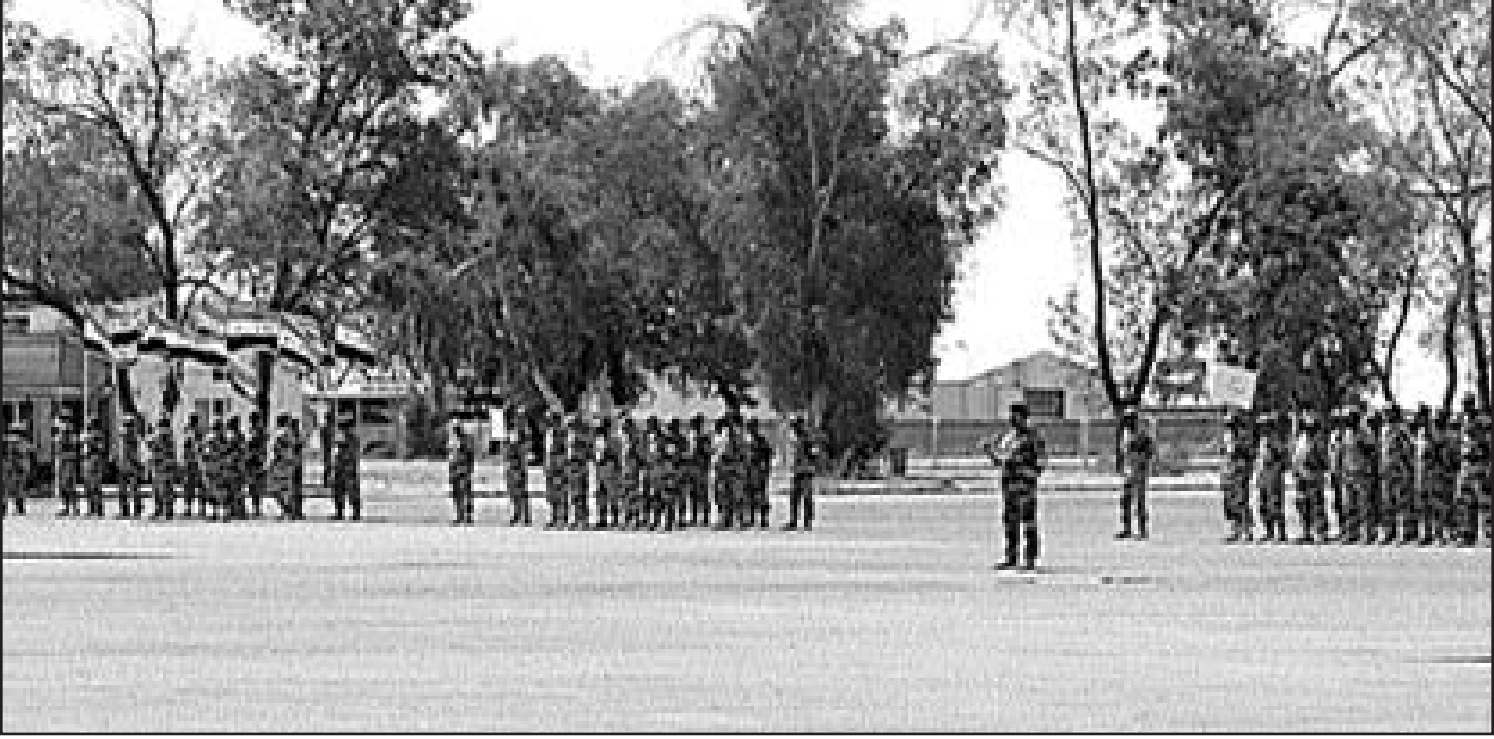
More than 100 trainees officially became logistics Soldiers, having learned the skills necessary to re-supply and support their units.

“Go forward to support your units; I encourage you to continue to learn,” said one Iraqi officer addressing the graduating class.

The skills taught at SSI are vital to the Iraqi Armyís expanding role as the security force for Iraq. In the past, Iraqi Army units have relied on Multi-National Forces logistical support when conducting day-to-day operations.

The school is a joint operation, run by the Iraqi Army and Australian Forces.

Today, the Iraqi Army is moving towards complete and autonomous security operations with their own logistical support.



***Iraqi Army Soldiers line the parade field as they graduate from the Iraqi Army Support Services Institute Apr. 18. This is the first class to graduate from SSI. The skills they learned will help move the Iraqi Army towards completely autonomous security operations.***



***The Iraqi national flag flies as a proud symbol of the Iraqi Army reassuming control of their country’s security.***



***The Iraqi national flag flies proudly over the heads of the Iraqi soldiers graduating from Iraqi Army Support Services Institute.***

# Iraqi Army, U.S. forces seize weapons, terrorists

*TFB Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD** — In just over one hour, Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers netted five weapons caches and five terrorists in five separate raids in the city. One of the terrorists taken into custody is believed to be a key member in a local terror cell.

Shortly after 3:30 p.m. Apr. 20, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers confiscated mortar rounds and rockets hidden at a school in southeast Baghdad.

At 4:20 p.m. another Task Force Baghdad

unit in southeast Baghdad discovered a warehouse where improvised explosive devices and car bombs were made and stored. The Soldiers searched the building and found batteries, detonation cord, \$900 in U.S. currency, terrorist propaganda, passports and multiple cell phones which could be used to trigger the bombs. A local national who appeared at the site while the search was in progress was taken into custody.

At the same time in northeast Baghdad an alert Soldier on patrol spotted an anti-U.S. bumper sticker on a parked car. The patrol inves-

tigated and found grenades, illegal weapons and a bloody machete in the house where the car was parked. The Soldiers also detained two local nationals and took them into custody for questioning.

At 4:30 p.m., Task Force Baghdad Soldiers detained two more men at another IED-making facility. One of the men is thought to be a key member of a Baghdad terror cell. The Soldiers searched the building and found wires and a voltmeter. The detainees were held for questioning.

Ten minutes later, Iraqi Army Soldiers, acting on a tip from a local national informant, found 60 boxes of 57-millimeter rounds and seven boxes of mines hidden in a local school.

“We’re working to ensure that the terrorists fail and that the people of Iraq succeed in arriving at the better democratic future that is their right,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. “Each weapons cache that the Iraqi Army seizes is just another example of the strides the government is making toward a safe, secure future.”



# 108th may see mission change after return from dployment

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Roy Henry**  
*GNG Public Affairs*

When 1st Battalion, 108th Armor returns from Iraq it may find its self in a whole new role under the Army's plan to re-designate its brigades to units of action.

"Admittedly, the concept is still in the planning stage, and there are many things that have to be worked out," said Lt. Col. John King, the battalion's commander. "But what we're talking about here is leaving combat arms behind and becoming a reconnaissance security squadron."

This transition includes bringing Troop E, 108th Cavalry into the battalion's ranks. That concept is already being played out here at Fort Stewart as the 48th Brigade Combat Team trains up for its yearlong deployment, King said.

With more than 4,000 Soldiers involved, this deployment is the largest of its kind since World War II.

In its traditional role, 108th is the 48th's "Sunday punch" on the battlefield, King explained. Once the brigade commander decides where he wants to penetrate an enemy's line, he sends in the M1 Abrams tanks to tear it open. By transforming the brigade to a Unit of Action, 108th will, instead, tell the brigade where the ideal place in the line is to mount that attack.

"That means we'll be a much lighter, much more mobile force, with emphasis on scout capabilities and electronic intelligence, and the ability to identify friend and foe," King added.

Becoming that lighter, more mobile force means losing the M1s, he explained. The only tracked vehicles will be M2/M3 Bradley fighting vehicles for carrying the scouts. Humvees also be used to carry scouts, as well as military intelligence personnel and electronic intelligence gathering equipment. Trucks are on tap to

move mounted infantry across the battlefield, King said.

Among the high-tech gear 108th will have at its disposal is the military's Raven, a radio-controlled unmanned aerial vehicle used in place of human eyes to find the enemy. The 108th has been training with the Raven since the battalion arrived at Fort Stewart, and will be using the lightweight, single propeller-driven aircraft while in Iraq. Training with the Raven has gone quite well, with the troops using it becoming more proficient at it each time it flies, King said.

While noting has yet been set in stone, it should be an easy transformation, King said, since many in the battalion, like himself, were once scouts.

King, for example, is a former scout and one-time commander of Griffin's Troop E, 108th Cavalry. His command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. David Knowles, is also a former scout and one-time 108th CAV first sergeant.

"Things have changed in the way wars are fought, and we must change with them," Knowles said.

Pointing to a group of Soldiers getting into another group of Humvees, Knowles said, "If we're going to accomplish that, there'll have to be a reversal of roles, of sorts, regarding who will be teaching who."

The older guys will certainly keep on teaching the younger folks how to "Soldier," but it will be the young ones, the ones who have grown up with the video game controller in their hands, who will be teaching the older guys how to use today's electronics to accomplish the mission," he said.

When 1st Battalion, 108th Armor comes home a year from now, its role within the Army and within the 48th Brigade Combat Team may change, King and Knowles agreed. What will never change, they afforded, is the ability of their Soldiers to step up to the challenge and make things happen.0-



*Infantry and scouts such as these will become the mainstay of 1st Battalion, 108th under the Army's Unit of Action concept.*



*Lieutenant Col. John King gets ready to board his up-armored Humvee and begin his day of traversing the battlefield and seeing how his tankers are doing with their missions.*



*Sgt. Mike Wells (left) and Spc. Marlon Pegues, both of Dalton's Company B will find themselves working out of a Humvee instead of an M1 Abrams tank.*



*A line of 108th Armor Humvees prepares to leave Forward Operating Base Cartwright for a morning mission at Fort Stewart.*



3ID IN BRIEF

| Stewart  | Hunter   | Winn /Tuttle  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Bowling and Golf</b></p> <p>Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members. No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.</p> <p><b>Library</b></p> <p>Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Army Hooah Race</b></p> <p>Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends of the Army are invited to participate in the 4th Annual Army Hooah Race Jun. 11.The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in the metro-Atlanta area.</p> <p>Come and enjoy the fun.</p> <p>For more information, call Sgt. Maj. William Bissonette at (404) 464-8228 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:william.bissonette@us.army.mil">william.bissonette@us.army.mil</a>.</p> <p><b>Baseball</b></p> <p>Registration for youth Baseball, T-ball, &amp; Girls' Softball is currently underway and ends on Apr. 28. Registration is FREE and open to all CYS members living on or off post. We must have at least 40 participants for each age group in order to have leagues for each sport.</p> <p>For more information, please call 767-2312 or 767-4371.</p> <p>We also need volunteers to help coach our sports teams! Please stop by CYS, Bldg. 443 to fill out a volunteer form.</p> <p>Volunteer forms are also available at the Youth Sports Administration Office,</p> | <p><b>Car Checks</b></p> <p>Motorists exiting HAAF should be prepared to stop at Outbound Gate, during hours of darkness.</p> <p><b>Post access</b></p> <p>Post access is no longer possible from Hampstead Ave. Gate. A security fence now exits beyond the Gannam Heights construction site.</p> <p><b>Tax center open</b></p> <p>For late tax filers the tax center is open through Apr. 29. The center is located in the Legal Center, Bldg. 1211, and is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. Thursdays center opens at 1 p.m.</p> <p>Call 303-3675 to make appointment.</p> <p><b>Bowling and Golf</b></p> <p>There is free Bowling and shoe rental the last Saturday of every month at Hunter Lanes, 1-5 pm, for Soliders and family members.</p> <p>There are no golf green fees the last Thursday of every month at Hunter Golf Course. Golf Cart rental is \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 per person for 18 holes.</p> <p><b>Teen Job Fair</b></p> <p>If you're looking for summer employment, don't miss the job fair. Representatives from fast-food restaurants and other business establishments will answer your questions Apr. 30, 10 a.m. to Noon.</p> <p>For more information, call 352-5708.</p> <p>Join the Fort Stewart and HAAF Library Online Book Clubs and receive chapters from popular books in your daily e-mail. Get a portion of a book daily. When you've read 2 - 3 chapters,</p> | <p>you get a new one. Choose from 11 different book clubs.</p> <p>Sign up a the library or visit the enter <a href="http://147.131.133:7001">http://147.131.133:7001</a> in your browser tool bar.</p> <p><b>Hunter Club Specials</b></p> <p>Hunter Club serves lunch from 11 am - 1:30 pm daily. Order from the menu, or get the \$6.50 daily special.</p> <p>Call 353-7923 for information.</p> <p><b>Soldiers Inn Dining Facility</b></p> <p>All are welcome for breakfast, lunch and dinner served 7 days a week. The dining facility is open to Soldiers, civilians, guests and the general public.</p> <p><b>National Library Week</b></p> <p>There are FREE Online Book Clubs. See the clubs available at — <a href="http://www.stewartmwr.com/onlinebookclub.pdf">www.stewartmwr.com/onlinebookclub.pdf</a>.</p> <p><b>HAAF Bingo</b></p> <p>Play for the \$5000 jackpot, at HAAF, Bldg 128. Doors open at 5 pm during the week, 4 pm weekends. Closed Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat. program features lightning round, starting at 11:30 pm.</p> <p><b>Youth Programs at HAAF</b></p> <p>Before and after school care for grades 1-5, rates based on income, 6-9 am and 3-6 pm weekdays. Teen program for grades 6-12, from 3-6 pm weekdays, is free. Sessions include homework help, snacks, technology and craft labs, and athletics activities.</p> <p><b>HAAF Girl Scouts</b></p> <p>Troop 1284 Daisies meet 1st and 3rd Wed. at Hunter CDC, Bldg. 1284 Call 353-2743</p>  |
|  |  | <p><b>Telephone Prefix Change</b></p> <p><i>The hospital telephone and fax number prefix will change Apr. 22 from 370 to 435.</i></p> <p><b>Troop and Family Clinic Open</b></p> <p>The Troop and Family Care Medical Clinic is now open. Sick-call and other Soldier care usually provided at SFHC #3 will be provided here. For more information, call 435-5364.</p> <p><b>Staying Healthy Classes</b></p> <p>This class offers strategies for staying healthy. Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle. The next class at Tuttle is 10 to 11 a.m. April 28. To register, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.</p> <p><b>Army Substance Abuse Program</b></p> <p>The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Army Substance Abuse Program offers individual and group counseling services for adults with alcohol or drug abuse problems. This program is offered to family members over the age of 18, active-duty Soldiers, retirees and Department of Defense employees. The Fort Stewart office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information, call 767-5265. The Hunter office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. For more information, call 352-5236.</p> <p><b>School Health Screenings</b></p> <p>A mass School Health Screening will be available for children 5 and older May 14 by appointment. The screening includes dental, immunization, eye and ear checks. All children entering the Georgia school system for the first time must be screened. To make an appointment, call 370-6633. Dental and immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis. Dental screenings are available 12:15 to 2 p.m. Monday thru Thursday at Dental Clinic #1 and Dental Clinic #3. Immunizations are available 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Eye and ear screenings are available by appointment through the EENT clinic.</p> <p><b>Ready to Quit Class</b></p> <p>If you're interested in quitting tobacco use, walk-in to a one hour Ready to Quit class. You can register for the 4-week Tobacco Use Cessation program during this class or pick-up self-help materials to quit on your own. Ready to Quit is a pre-requisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation program. The next class at Winn is 11 a.m. to noon April 27. The next Tuttle class is 11 a.m. April 27. For more information, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.</p> |



# ASK THE JUDGE

## A SOLDIER’S LARGEST ASSET: SERVICEMEN’S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI)

Virtually every service member has an asset worth amounting to at least \$250,000, but most give it hardly a second thought.

That asset, Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, is likely to be the most valuable asset in a deceased member's estate and should receive careful consideration; particularly as to beneficiary designation and election of coverage.

SGLI is term life insurance purchased by the government from private insurers and partially subsidized by the government. Many commercially available life insurance policies have a war clause; i.e., they will not pay if death resulted from war or armed conflict.

Obviously, such a provision significantly diminishes the value of commercial insurance to a member of the Armed Forces. This fact provided the catalyst for the establishment of SGLI. SGLI pays if the death resulted from act of war. In fact, the cause of death is irrelevant to payment of benefits.

On your first opportunity to elect SGLI, you are guaranteed insurability; you cannot be denied because of poor health. However, if you elect no coverage, or less than the maximum amount, and later want to increase the coverage, you can be denied based on SGLI determination of your insurability. You can also lose SGLI entitlements if your death occurs during an extended period of unauthorized absence, while serving a sentence to confinement, following refusal to serve due to conscientious objector status, or after conviction of certain very serious crimes.

You name your beneficiary on the SGLI election form, which is in your service record. The personnel office will generally ask you to review the form annually, but you need not wait until the annual audit to make wanted changes.

You may name any person, firm, corporation, charitable organization or trust as your beneficiary. A minor may be named as beneficiary, but you should do so only in the form of a trust or by designating a Uniformed Gift to Minor's Account. You can designate that the executor of your will receive the proceeds, to be distributed according to your will. You can name principle and contingent beneficiaries.

The principal beneficiary receives insurance proceeds at your death. If you name more than one principal beneficiary, be sure to indicate the fractional share you want each to take.

A contingent beneficiary takes only if the principal beneficiaries are deceased at the time of the insured's death. All beneficiaries take per capita; that is, they take only if they are alive. If named beneficiaries are not alive, their share does not go to their heirs.

A beneficiary designation can be invalid for a number of reasons. Some of these are: all the beneficiaries are deceased, the beneficiary is a trust, but no trust was established, or simply, no beneficiary was named.

In such cases, proceeds pass according to federal law ( 38 USC 1970), which establishes a distribution scheme similar to that used in distributing the estate of a person dies without a will.

By now, the word has certainly gotten out among all the services that "by law" designation of beneficiary is unacceptable. If "by law" is your beneficiary, amend your election form.

Your beneficiary election should be so specific that there is no question as to who is included and excluded. Take special care in naming children as beneficiaries. Naming "my child" probably excludes children born after election.

Naming "my children" may include illegitimate children or

children from a prior marriage that you may or may not want to include. It may exclude step-children or adopted children that you want to include. Beneficiary designation can be designed in such a way as to ensure that you include only intended beneficiaries.

If you want a minor to receive insurance proceeds, consider the various methods for taking care of the money until the child reaches the age of majority, such as the establishment of a trust or custodianship. There are advantages and disadvantages to each that you can discuss with legal counsel and with your personnel officer. If you do not decide what to do with the proceeds before the minor reaches adulthood, the law will decide for you and you may not like the results.

Applying for benefits is a fairly straight-forward process with which the casualty assistance officer assigned to the case can help.

All SGLI needs to pay benefits is a completed SGLI claim form, the election form from the service record and a report of casualty from the service headquarters.

SGLI coverage ends 120 days after discharge (assuming premiums are still paid).

During the 120-day period, members may elect to be enrolled in Veteran's Group Life Insurance.

Election of coverage amounts and designation of beneficiary are important decisions to be given due consideration. Chances are highly likely that if you died today, your SGLI proceeds are your most valuable asset. Make sure it goes where you want it to go.

If you need further assistance or have questions regarding your SGLI, please contact the Legal Assistance Office, 767-8809/8819



POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Civilian,43-year-old male.  
• **Charges:** Driving on suspended license, altered identification card, entering Military, Naval, or Coast Guard property.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Specialist , 22-year-old male, separate unit.  
• **Charge:** Driving while license suspended, speeding (70/55).  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 36-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charges:** Wrongful possession of cocaine.  
• **Location:** Orlando, Florida.

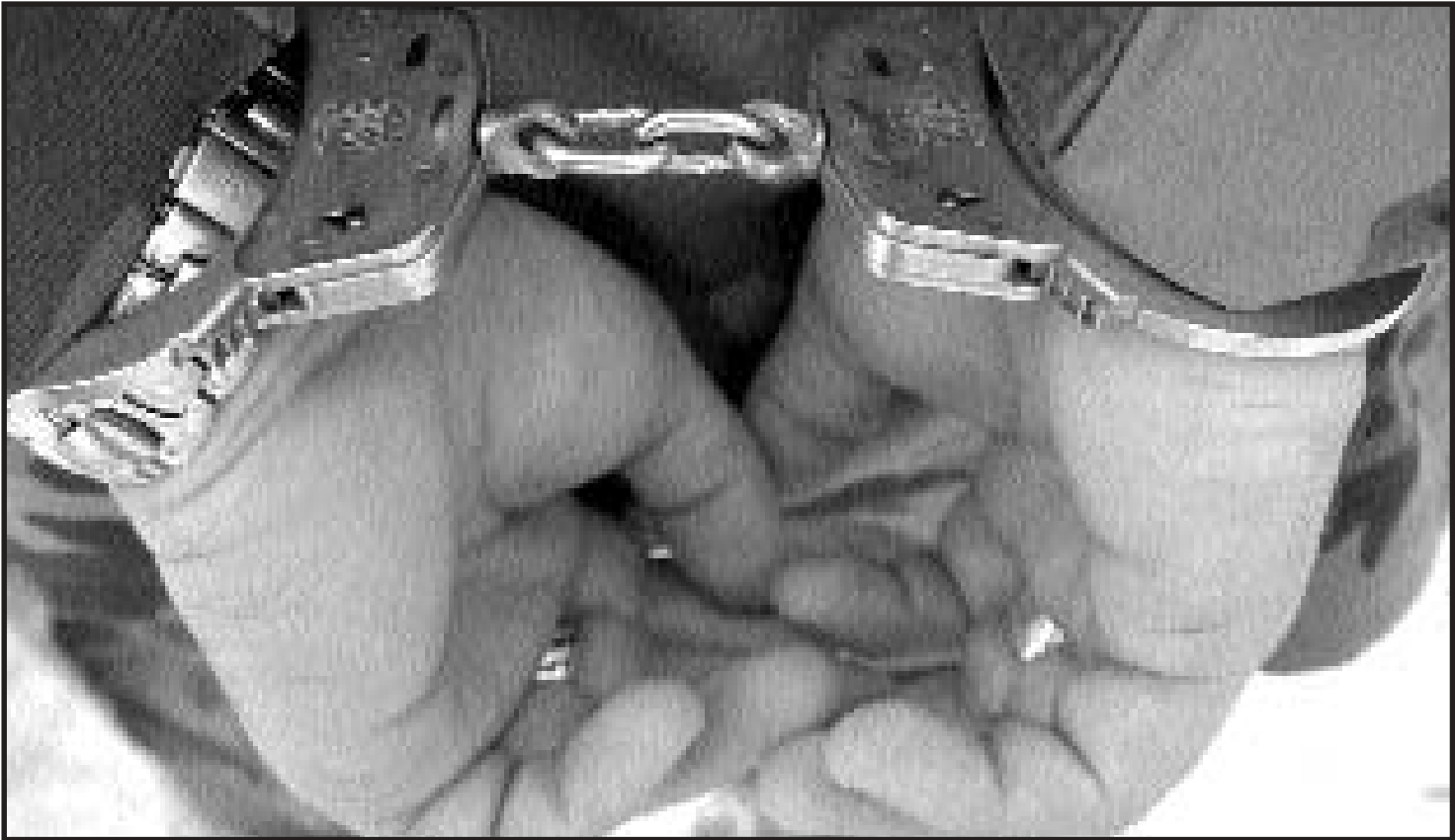
• **Subject:** Civilian, 52-year-old male.  
• **Charge:** Driving while license suspended, expired registration.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class , 20-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.  
• **Location:** Hinesville.

• **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old female.  
• **Charge:** Unlawful speeding (78/55).  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old female.  
• **Charge:** Unlawful speeding (72/40).  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Civilian , 42-year-old male.  
• **Charges:** Driving while license is suspended or revoked, no insurance, use of tag for vehicle concealment, possession of drug paraphernalia.



• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 29-year-old male, 2nd BDE.  
• **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery..  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old female.  
• **Charges:** Unlawful speeding (80/55).  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Family member, 84-year-old female.  
• **Charge:** Failure to exercise care.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old female, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** DUI less safe, failure to obey traffic control devices.

• **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 21-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** Fighting in public, obstruction.  
• **Location:** Savannah.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** Reckless conduct.  
• **Location:** Port Wentworth.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old female, Div Sup Bde.  
• **Charge:** Wrongful interference with admin proceedings, alter/remove of public record.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, 2nd Bde.  
• **Charge:** Failure to obey lawful order.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Location:** Savannah.

• **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** Drunk and disorderly, wrongful damaging of government property.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Petty Officer, 20-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** Driving under the influence, loud music, no seat belt, possession of open container.  
• **Location:** Savannah.

• **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 24-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** Driving under the influence, speeding (66/45)  
• **Location:** Bloomingdale, Georgia.

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, seperate unit.  
• **Charge:** Carrying a concealed weapon.  
• **Location:** Beaufort.



Ranger ——— From 1A unpredictable, Chinn said.

The teams were shown 10 enemy vehicles before embarking on a series of challenges, including crossing a steam and demonstrating correct use of an antiarmor weapon. Afterward, they were asked to identify the vehicles.

Majors Liam Collins and Frank Sobchak recalled eight of them.

After the machine gun event, the 23 teams started a 21-mile road march.

Historically, this event pares the field by half, and this year wasn't any different.

By sun up, day two, 12 teams left the woods, drenched, and went home to sleep.

Day Two of the Best Ranger Competition dawned sunny and warm.

This year it was windy and cold and damp, with storm clouds threatening a repeat of the day before.

The teams holding first through fourth places were neck-and-neck.

It was still anyone's game.

The first-place team, Capt. Corbett McCallum and Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Nelson, were first to choose where they would start.

They opted to save the Prusik Climb for last.

Though the Prusik is one of six "stations" at the Todd Field Day Stakes event and one of the fastest, it's always the main attraction.

One at a time, the Rangers climbed a 90-foot rope to a tower, where they shed their climbing gear, crossed to the opposite side of the tower and fast roped down, typically landing splayed on a mat below.

Few made it in less than a minute.

Teammate's scores were

added together, and teams' were ranked by their times.

Master Sgt. James Moran and Sgt. 1st Class Walter Zajkowski won the event in one minute and 48 seconds.

The time was one second ahead of Capt. Brandon Cates and Sgt. 1st Class Brent Meyers, thanks to Zajkowski's 38 second run.

"Most of us couldn't mount the rope in thirty-eight seconds," Freakley said.

The other Day Stakes events, individually "weighted," included weapons assembly, call-for-fire event, tomahawk throw, a first responder (treat a casualty under fire) event, and mystery event which required them to navigate a grenade assault course.

Jordan McCallum traveled from Columbus, Ohio, to watch his younger brother, a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Day Two, with his brother's team in first-place, Jordan had a new respect for the Ranger's combat skills.

"I've watched part of the competition on TV, but I'm seeing a whole other side of it. It's impressive," he said. "I thought I understood what our (Rangers) do, but after being here and seeing it, I have a whole new respect for them."

Day Three dawned cold and quiet for the Best Ranger competitors.

With only 11 teams left in the game — fewer than average at this stage — Chinn decided to delay the start of the Darby Queen long enough to let them rest a bit longer.

With only four hours of sleep programmed into the schedule (and seven MREs), a little extra shut-eye can mean the difference between pass or fail on the killer course.

"They're in there resting right now, but they're freezing, shivering," Chinn said Sunday morning, as the competitors lay sprawled on the floor of a Camp Darby classroom. "By this point, some of them are having trouble keeping their body heat up. They haven't had much to eat, and they don't have the body fat to keep them warm, so it's taking a toll on them. "Today will be an interesting day, because they'll reach down and pull it out of their gut," he said.

McCallum and Nelson, who later said they thrived in the colder temperatures, won the Darby Queen, all but cinching the title. But they didn't know it.

They kept their focus on the finish line.

"After land nav, we knew we had a cushion we needed," McCallum said. "But we just went for it, and gave it our all in every event. We just didn't stop."

No one stopped, actually. The 11 teams that started Day Two completed Day Three, which included a water confidence test, a helocast and swim event, and a final two and a half-mile buddy run to the finish line back at Camp Rogers, where hundreds of spectators waited to welcome their teams.

There, Nelson and McCallum were greeted by retired Lt. Gen. David E. Grange, for whom the competition is named.

He congratulated the winners, before turning them over to their families. "I couldn't have asked for better support from my family," Nelson said, after hugging his son and daughter. "They've been here every step of the way. The reason I'm here is because of my wife. She told me to put up or shut. It paid off."



Bridgett Siter

**Sgts. Neal Jacobson, left, and Jason Noffske, 75th Ranger Regiment, run across the finish line. The team came in in seventh place and was one of the 11 teams who completed the competition. 23 teams started the competition.**



Bridgett Siter

**Maj. Frank Sobchak, Command General Staff College, navigates the Malvesti Obstacle Course at Fort Benning, Ga.**



# Task Force Baghdad reports...

## Multi-National Forces capture 16 more terrorists

**BAGHDAD** — In the 24 hours, the number of captured terrorists suspected to have possible links to the shooting down of a civilian MI-8 helicopter has increased to 10.

Task Force Baghdad units, working in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces and acting on tips from local residents, continue to investigate and detain individuals believed to have ties to the attack northwest of Baghdad.

Iraqi Police and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers have also apprehended 16 other terror suspects in the Baghdad area.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers also swept through a village in north Baghdad and captured 11 suspected terrorists during an early-morning raid. The suspects are believed to be members of a terror cell that planned and carried out bombing and mortar attacks.

Another Task Force Baghdad unit in northwest Baghdad was struck by a stationary vehicle-carried explosive device across the street from the Taji Iraqi Police Station. One U.S. Soldier suffered minor burns in the attack and was treated on site.

Iraqi Police officers on the scene identified a yellow van with the two trigger men inside and gave chase. When the van was stopped, the two suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

“With haphazard, uncoordinated attacks we’re seeing how the extremists’ efforts to intimidate Iraqis are failing,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. “The people of Iraq are getting tired and angry at these attacks and those who carry them out. The violence of the terrorists slows the economic progress of Iraq, which in turn robs everyday Iraqis of the chance for employment, prosperity and freedom.”

Twenty minutes later in a west Baghdad marketplace, a dismounted U.S. patrol caught a terrorist specifically targeted for being a member of a mortar team that fires on coalition bases.

The Soldiers took the man and his brother into custody for questioning.

A Task Force Baghdad unit in south Baghdad took another suspect into custody and brought him to a U.S. military base where he was positively identified.

“With the assistance from Iraqi Security Forces and tips from local citizens who are reporting terrorist activity in their neighborhoods, we are placing increased pressure on those who want to disrupt Iraq’s progress toward democracy,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. “Despite recent, headline-grabbing attacks on innocent civilians, the effectiveness of terrorist groups is dwindling.”

## Iraqi Police quickly respond to midday car bomb

**BAGHDAD** — A Task Force Baghdad patrol in west Baghdad was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Seven Iraqis and three Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were wounded.

One Task Force Baghdad military vehicle and two local national vehicles were destroyed in the midday explosion, which also knocked down power lines in the area.

Iraqi Police on the scene evacuated the wounded to local hospitals. The U.S. Soldiers were taken to a military medical treatment facility.

## Iraqi citizens give tips, lead Iraqi Police, Army to IEDs

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi citizens came forward and volunteered information about terrorist activities in Baghdad April 25—tips which led Iraqi Security Forces to potentially-deadly improvised explosive devices.

Shortly before 9 a.m., a local national provided a tip which was



Army Photo

***Thousands of Iraqis continue to show up for police jobs in spite of terrorists attacks.***

passed to the Iraqi Army, telling authorities about an IED buried under rocks near an electric company. Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded to the report. The area was secured and the IED detonated with no casualties.

About an hour later, an Iraqi citizen reported the location of another IED in south-central Baghdad to IPs. Police officers rushed to the scene, set up a cordon to secure the area and told the landowner of the possible bomb.

An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to extract the IED, which turned out to be a can inside a black bag consisting of steel ball bearings, C4 plastic explosives and a detonator.

“Both of these Iraqi patriots did a brave thing today — they saved an untold number of lives by reporting information to their local police and Iraqi Army authorities,” Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson, said. “Today’s incidents also show how Iraqi Security Forces are self-sustaining.”